

RURAL DISTRICT OF ROMNEY MARSH, KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND


PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1964

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ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health
and Public Health Inspector for the Year 1964

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1964.

Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 4,880 which was an increase of 120 over that of the previous year.

Live Births and Birth Rate

The number of live births was 94 (46 M. 48 F.) which was an increase of 8 over that of the previous year and the corresponding crude birth rate was 19.26; when adjusted, however, by the Registrar General's Comparability Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with other Districts the crude rate becomes 23.11 and was rather higher than that of 18.4 for England and Wales.

Stillbirths and Rate

No stillbirths were registered and the stillbirth rate was accordingly nil in comparison with that of 16.3 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths and Mortality Rate

Two infant deaths were registered due to:-

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------------|---|------------|
| (i) | Prematurity | } | one day |
| | Pyelitis of Pregnancy | | |
| (ii) | Asphyxia | } | six months |
| | Fulminating Tracheo Bronchitis | | |
| | Staphylococcus Pyogenes | | |

The infantile mortality rate was accordingly 21.28 compared with that of 20.0 for England and Wales.

(The above figures are however too small to provide valid comparative rates).

The hard core of causes of Perinatal Mortality (i.e. stillbirths and infant deaths under one week of age) is prematurity, asphyxia and atelectasis, birth injuries and congenital malformations and the most important maternal factor is toxæmia of pregnancy.

Maternal Deaths and Mortality Rate

This rate was nil, as there were no deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion, and signifies the high standard of modern obstetric practice.

Total Deaths and Rate

The total number of deaths from all causes was 50 (26 M. 24 F.) and the corresponding crude death rate was 10.25, after adjustment by the Registrar General's Comparability

Factor which is computed from a population standardised for age and sex distribution and affords comparison with other Districts, the adjusted rate was 8.91 in comparison with that of 11.3 for England and Wales.

The majority of the deaths were amongst the aged from natural causes, namely, Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Vascular lesions of the Nervous System; of these there were 30.

Disease of the Coronary Artery of the Heart was the cause of sixteen of those deaths, in the following age-groups:- 1 between 45 - 54 yrs.; 4 between 55 - 64 yrs.; 7 between 65 - 74 yrs.; 4 over 75 yrs. The majority of deaths were over 65 yrs., and although the causative factor is still obscure, it is probable that a degenerative process is one of the most important factors.

Cancer was the cause of only three deaths in contrast with 14 in the previous year.

Cancer of the lung was the cause of one death in the age-group 65 - 74 yrs., and Cancer of the stomach was the cause of one death in the age-group 55 - 64 years.

The third death, classified under 'Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms' was in the age-group 75 years and over.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional mortality.

The Infectious Diseases

Excepting measles, the incidence of notifiable Infectious Disease was very low. None of the more serious infections was notified.

Measles

Sixty-three cases were notified and there were no serious complications or deaths.

It is equivocal whether this infection should today be statutorily notifiable. The disease per se, is not serious and its more serious complications are becoming less and less frequent, and when they occur, the Sulpha drugs and Antibiotics specific, excepting Acute Encephalitis.

Scarlet Fever

One sporadic case was notified. This infection is today relatively mild and it is exceptional for a patient to be admitted to an Infectious Diseases Hospital. Perhaps, the only complication that may occur unexpectedly is Acute Nephritis.

Acute Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia

One case of this illness was notified, and including the secondary Pneumonias which are not notifiable, there was no death.

Tuberculosis

It is noteworthy to record that no new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified.

One case of non-Respiratory Tuberculosis (Renal M. aged 80) was notified.

There were no deaths which is a reflection of the efficaciousness of modern treatment.

In conclusion, in my opinion, the Public Health of the District throughout the year was very satisfactory and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for your interest in the Department, and the staff for their co-operation and efficiency.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL. M.B., Ch., B., D.P.H.

The Central Public Health Office,
14, Church Road,
Ashford, Kent.

Tel. No. Ashford 1485.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

OF THE

DISTRICT FOR 1964

Area:- 31,031 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	4,880
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	2,040
Rateable Value	...		£160,733
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...		£670

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Romney Marsh Rural District is essentially agricultural in character and interests but, as part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, there is considerable catering for the large numbers of holiday-makers and weekend trippers who are attracted to the district, and associated there are large holiday-camps and licensed caravan sites. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total M. F.</u>				<u>Romney Marsh Rural District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. <u>Live Births</u>	94	46	48	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	19.26 (Adjusted Rate 23.11)	18.4
(a) Legitimate	87	41	48			
(b) Illegitimate	7	5	2			
2. <u>Stillbirths</u>	-	-	-			
(a) Legitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births	Nil	16.3
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. <u>Total live and stillbirths</u>	94	46	48			
4. <u>Deaths</u>	50	26	24	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	10.25 (Adjusted Rate 8.91)	11.3
5. <u>Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion</u>	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live & still) births	Nil	Not Available
6. <u>Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age</u>	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 live births	21.28	20.0
(a) Legitimate	2	2	-	Rate per 1,000 legiti- mate live births	22.99	
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 ille- gitimate live births	-	
7. <u>Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age</u>	1	1	2	Rate per 1,000 live births	10.64	Not Available
(a) Legitimate	1	1	-			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
8. <u>Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births</u>						7.45%
9. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					...	4
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					...	-
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea..					...	-
Deaths from Measles					...	-

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	...	63
Scarlet Fever	...	1
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	...	1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMANY LACU RURAL DISTRICT

DURING 1954

ALL CAUSES				Males	Females
				26	29
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	..	..
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	..	..
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	1	..
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	..	..
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	..	..
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	..	..
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	..	..
8.	Measles	...	...	..	..
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	..	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomach	...	...	1	..
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	..	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	..	..
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	..	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	..	1
15.	Leukaemia, lymphoma	...	...	..	..
16.	Diabetes	...	...	..	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	3	4
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	12	4
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	..	..
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	1	4
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	..
22.	Influenza	...	...	..	..
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	..	..
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	..	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	..	..
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	..
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	..	..
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	..	..
29.	Hypertrophy of Prostate	...	...	..	..
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	..	..
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	..
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	3	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	..	..
34.	All other accidents	...	...	..	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	..	..
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	..	..

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality, 1964

Age Range	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis of patients who had not been notified as suffering from this disease.

IMMUNISATION

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation and whooping cough immunisation figures for 1964 based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in combination)		Whooping Cough Immunisation (Singly or in combination)
	Primary	Re-inforcing	Primary
1964	15	-	15
1963	28	2	28
1962	1	32	1
1961	1	2	1
1960	-	1	-
1955-1959	2	31	2
1950-1954	-	1	-
Total	48	72	48

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The following table shows the Poliomyelitis Vaccination figures for 1964 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Year	3rd and 4th Dose (Salk & Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
1964	-	6
1963	-	45
1962	1	8
1961	-	3
1949-1960	42	7
1933-1948	-	1
Others	1	1

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

Primary Vaccination 1 Year	Re-Vaccination School age but under 8 years
27	-

on duties other than public health this cannot be expected to increase and may well become less.

(B) Observations on manufacture and sale of ice-cream in accordance with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1959.

All ice cream sold in the district is pre-wrapped by large manufacturers from outside the district. No samples were taken.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (Part 111)

Milk and Dairies (General Regulations, 1959 (Part 111)

(a) No. of registered distributors 14
(b) No. of registered dairies None

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Unsound Food Surrendered

7 lbs. Tinned meat condemned.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

(Summary of quarterly returns by local authorities to Ministry of Housing and Local Government in P.13 Hsg. for the year ending 31st December).

A. Houses Demolished

In Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957)	Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
1. Houses unfit for human habitation	None		
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement	None		
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 45(2) Housing Act 1957	None		
Not in Clearance Areas			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1)	None		
B. <u>Unfit Houses Closed</u>		<u>Number</u>	
5. Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act, 1957		3 informally	
6. Under Sections 17(3) and 26 Housing Act, 1957		None	
7. Parts of buildings closed under (Section 18, Housing Act, 1957)		None	

C. Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
8. After informal action by local authority	9	-
9 After formal notice under -		
(a) Public Health Act	None	
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957	None	
10. Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957	None	

D. Unfit Houses in temporary use (Housing Act, 1957)

	No. of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
11. Retained for temporary accommodation		
(a) Under Sec. 48	None	
(b) Under Sec. 17(2)	None	
(c) Under Sec. 46	None	
12. Licensed for temporary occupation under Sec. 34 or 55	None	

E. Purchase of Houses by agreement

	No. of houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
13. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Order or Compulsory Purchase Order purchased in the year.	None	

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVECTIONS GRANTS

No standard grants were applied for. Fourteen discretionary grants were applied for and given. Total amount of grant - £3,910 ss. 0d. In general the works involved the reconditioning of older type properties in the more scattered parts of the district together with the installation of septic tank drainage system.

INSPECTIONS - Summary of inspections made:-

Public Health Act, 1936 and Housing Act, 1957

Number of inspections of dwellings re repairs	19
Number of dwellings made fit	14
Number of inspections for purposes of Sections 16/17 Housing Act. (Demolition & Closing Orders) ..	-
Number of inspections of clearance areas	-
Number of inspection for general survey & assessment	5

Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1958 Housing Subsidies and Standard Grant

Number of inspections in connection with Improvement Grants	13
Number of inspections in connection with Standard Grants	-

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and Rents Act, 1957

Number of inspections re Certificates of Disrepair ...	-
Number of inspections re Certificates as to Remedying of defects ...	-

Housing (general)

Number of inspections re housing applications	Not Available
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Public Health Act

Number of inspections re:-

Tents, Vans and Sheds	18
Aged and Infirm Persons	2
Vermin	1
Dirty Houses	3
Offensive accumulations	2
Offensive odours	2
Nuisance from Keeping of Animals	2

NOTICES SERVED

	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Formal</u>
Public Health Acts	4	-
Housing Acts	-	-

HOUSING

(i) No. of families on Council's waiting at 31st.Dec.	165
(ii) No. of Council houses built during the year ...	14
(iii) No. of Private houses built during the year...	77

SUPERVISION OF HOP-PICKERS CAMPS

There are no hop-pickers camps in the area.

Names and Addresses of Holiday Camps and Number accommodated in each.

Beach Holiday Camp, Dymchurch - 900 plus staff (100 approx)
Golden Sands Holiday Camp, St. Mary's Bay - 350 plus staff
(25 approx.)
St. Mary's Bay Holiday Camp - 1,200 plus staff (120 approx)

CARAVAN SITES

Names and addresses of Caravan Sites and number of Caravans on each site:-

Eastfleet Caravan Site, Dymchurch - 120 vans
Apps Caravan Site, St. Mary's Bay - 50 vans

Caravan Sites (Continued)

Jones Caravan Site, Warren Farm, Dymchurch Rd., New Romney
25 vans - 4 acres tenar

Pipers Caravan Site, Dymchurch - 450 vans and chalets.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

No. of cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	912
No. of loads	...	...	...	...	1395

A good service to the public has been maintained following the completion of the Dymchurch Drainage Scheme in the more rural parts of the district. Some problems are being found as regards disposal of cesspool contents.

DRAINAGE

Total number of inhabited houses (including Flats) is	2040
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	1300 approx
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	740
Number of premises connected to cesspools	740
Number of premises with pail closets	Not known

REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL

Both of the refuse tips are badly sited and crude tipping and burning is practised together with the tipping of the cesspool lorry. The provision of proper refuse disposal and cesspool content disposal facilities should be treated as urgent on public health grounds. Part of the district is still only cleared fortnightly and every effort should be made to cover the whole district at least once a week.

DISINFESTATION

No disinfections were required during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

1. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health (including inspection made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	No. on Reg- ister (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i) Factories in which Section 1,2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	3	-	-
iii) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	6	1	-	-
Total	16	4		

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Irregularity of floor	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or def.	-	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1	-	-	-

OUTWORK - Part V111 of the Act - Sections 110 & 111

There is one outworker in the area making wearing apparel.

